

Oct. 9, 2017

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned December 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe County, Ohio --5 Parcels covering **350.06** acres available for lease.

ES-001	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:00 AM CST
<u>Parcel Info</u>	Sec. 25: W2SE, E2SESW, E2NESW, SESENW, NESW		
<u>View on Map</u>	Acres: 94.72		
ES-002	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:02 AM CST
<u>Parcel Info</u>	Sec. 33 NWNE		
<u>View on Map</u>	Acres: 40.13		
ES-003	Monroe County, OH T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey Meridian	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:04 AM CST
<u>Parcel Info</u>	Sec. 34: NESE, NESESE		
<u>View on Map</u>	Acres: 50.16		
ES-004	Monroe County, OH T3N, R5W, Ohio River Survey Meridian	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:06 AM CST
<u>Parcel Info</u>	Sec. 3: Pt. SE		
<u>View on Map</u>	Acres: 115.34		
ES-005	Monroe County, OH T3N, R5W, Ohio River Survey Meridian	Opening bid: \$2/acre	Open for bidding: 12/14/17 7:08 AM CST
<u>Parcel Info</u>	Sec. 3: Pt. S2NE, Pt. N2SE		
<u>View on Map</u>	Acres: 49.71		

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## PROTEST

### I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

This Protest is filed on behalf of:

Peggy Gish  
13206 Dutch Creek Rd.  
Athens, OH 45701

### II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

1. There has been a pattern of spills and contaminations due to this kind of extraction work. It would mean increased contamination of the land in the Wayne National forest, the creeks and rivers that are tributaries to the Ohio River, which provides drinking water to more than three million people.
2. Contamination caused by these operations would harm wildlife in the area.
3. Millions of gallons of water would be taken from creeks and streams in the forest to frack a well, at no cost to the drillers.
4. There would be increased truck traffic on the narrow, windy rural roads, carrying toxic wastes, with a high chance of spills, polluting the land and water of the local people in the area.
5. More wells mean more toxic wastes being injected into wells, resulting in contamination of the air and water for the people living in the area. The high powered injection process into the wells also result in increased seismic activity and contaminate underground water systems.
6. Clean water is becoming more of a scarce resource that should not be given away to wealthy corporations in order for them to make more money, but be protected for the people living in those areas.
7. With the increasing negative impact of developing and using fossil fuels on public health and environmental disasters, it is important we curb the fossil fuel industry and stop putting societal funds and support into giving such huge financial grants to these corporations. We need to be moving toward and supporting renewable energy technology and business, which is also cheaper and less harmful than fossil fuels. It is time for our public agencies to start representing and protecting the interests of people in the areas impacted.

Sincerely,



Peggy Gish